GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:69
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006
OPTIMUM UTILISATION OF SATELLITES
Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation`s satellites have contributed in improving tele-communication, tele-education, tele-medicine, etc., facilities in rural and remote areas of the country;

(b) if so, the extent of improvement achieved in this regard;

(c) whether any utilization study had been made by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the likely time by which the country would get maximum facilities through a network of satellites by their optimum utilization?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER`S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. ISRO`s INSAT satellites are supporting television broadcasting and tele-communication facilities to remote areas of the country. Using these satellite links, tele-medicine project is implemented and medical care is being extended through tele-medicine system to rural and remote areas. Currently about 182 tele-medicine centers have been established in the country. Edusat is being utilized by many Universities and State Governments for enhancing the quality of education. About 9800 Edusat class rooms have been established in the country to support the needs of primary, secondary schools as well as engineering, medicine and management education etc.

(c)&d) Yes, Sir. ISRO and various user agencies of these networks regularly evaluate their impact from time to time and the results are satisfactory.

(e) Currently, a network of 9 Communication / Meteorological satellites are providing operational services in the country, meeting the National requirements through 175 transponders. Enhancing the capacity of INSAT system for augmenting the Satellite communication facilities in the country, especially in the area of DTH and remote area connectivity, has been taken up to increase the capacity to 200 transponders by the end of 10th plan.